



Alaska Workforce
Investment Board
Report to the Legislature

Alaska Training Program Performance and Evaluation

February 2014

Board Mission, Assessment Framework and Recommendations

THE VISION for the Alaska Workforce Investment Board is “building connections that put Alaskans into good jobs.” This comprehensive vision keeps the board focused on developing a workforce system that is useful, accessible and understandable to all the system’s customers. Today’s customers include businesses looking for qualified workers, unemployed Alaskans looking for jobs and incumbent workers wanting to upgrade their skills in a changing work environment.

THE MISSION for the board is to provide policy oversight of state and federally funded job training and vocational education programs. Board members, a majority of whom are business and industry leaders, look at employment trends and emerging occupations to ensure training is customized and Alaskans are prepared for high demand, good wage jobs. Because of this oversight, public and private educators and training providers connect with employers to ensure the right people are trained for the right jobs.

AWIB ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK:

Oversight of state and federal training helps ensure these major investments in the development of Alaska’s workforce meet the objectives of the Alaska workforce development system. The board further looks to reports provided by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s Research and Analysis Section on training program performance as measured by the percentage of training participants who obtain employment, the wages of training participants and participant satisfaction.

The board also considers the following in evaluating training program performance:

Does the training address occupations / industries that:

- Are aligned with AWIB priorities?
- Have significant employer demand?
- Require certifications and/or industry qualifications?

Is the training targeted at populations such as:

- Youth and unemployed adults?
- Residents of rural and remote regions?
- Alaskans to replace nonresidents in high wage, high skill jobs?
- Those needing skill upgrades for new technology or new economy?

Are the resources utilized for the programs:

- Leveraging funding streams and local resources?
- Providing efficient and effective delivery mechanisms?
- Providing support for trainees and employers?

Are the programs delivering good performance as measured by:

- ROI?
- Placement rates?
- Retention?
- Wage increases?
- Trainee and employer satisfaction?

AWIB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE:

Following are recommendations for the 2014 Legislature and the governor to support the systems and the policies for workforce development. These six recommendations will reach into our schools to prepare Alaskans for the workforce as well help grow our economy.

- Support the implementation of the state's CTE plan:
 - Provide funding to the Alaska Departments of Education and Early Development, Labor and Workforce Development, and the University of Alaska to support the plan.
 - Provide funding for schools to develop the infrastructure for the CTE plan, including facilities/resources, qualified instructors and career guides/counselors to ensure students are oriented to careers and have the opportunity for career activities in the schools and communities.
 - Use the CTE plan to continue building partnerships to connect education with business/industry.
- Support the AK Performance Scholarship plan for degree and CTE / training programs, which will:
 - Entice students into postsecondary training, increase the graduation rate, and better articulate progression from secondary to postsecondary to careers.
 - Raise the standards for students in schools and help create a more skilled workforce for the future, given that most high skill/high wage jobs require more math, technology and communication skills than many of our graduates currently have.
- Expand the "academy" model piloted with the construction trades to include other AWIB priority industries, which will:
 - Ensure business standards are met and careers well-communicated, as academies require close connections between education and business.
 - Result in direct hire of graduates for entry-level jobs and smooth transition into postsecondary training for higher level jobs when combined with a tech-prep approach.
- Continue to support skill training for occupations vital to Alaska's current and future economy such as mining and other natural resources, renewable energy/energy efficiency, health systems and infrastructure construction projects as well as emerging sectors.
 - Align capital expenditures for projects with economic development coupled with workforce development to grow the economy.
- Continue to support workforce development in all areas of the state:
 - Continue TVEP to support Regional Training Centers across the state.
- Assist regional economic development councils with workforce development to grow local economies.

AWIB Membership

As of February 2014, the board consists of 24 representatives of business and industry, education, organized labor, and state government and other individuals with specific experience/expertise in accordance with Alaska Statute 23.15.550.

Mead Treadwell

Lieutenant Governor

Dianne Blumer

Commissioner, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Michael Hanley

Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development

William Streur

Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services

Susan Bell

Commissioner, Department of Community Commerce and Economic Development

Patrick Gamble

President, University of Alaska

Ken Peltier

Postsecondary Education/Vocational Education

John Cannon

Professional Experience with Developmental Disabilities

Charles Edwardson

Native Education/Training Organization

Bruce Bustamante

Private Sector

Rodney Brown

Organized Labor

David Alexander

Adult Basic Education

Corey Baxter

Organized Labor

Jim Lynch

Business/Industry

John MacKinnon

Private Sector

Pearl Strub

Business and Industry

Joey Merrick

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Florian Borowski

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Secondary Vocational Education

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